|  |
| --- |
| **Brochures**:  What is protection?  What do we mean by protection against sexual exploitation, sexual abuse and harassment?  Protection in its broadest sense means preventing harm to people - and the environment as well - while providing development and humanitarian assistance. It is well known that relief programs can cause unintended negative consequences for the local population. The issue of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment in particular is a widely documented and known problem. The vast majority of aid agency staff and aides are of a high level of commitment and upholding of principles, but there is always a risk that some of them will misbehave which could harm the local population and especially vulnerable groups. Similarly, employees and helpers themselves may be harmed in the workplace by their colleagues, as these behaviors may constitute some of the most serious violations of the most vulnerable/vulnerable people. Rigorous protection practices and policies will also help enhance public confidence in the sector, and ensure the continuity of existing support for global relief and development.  definitions  Sexual exploitation and abuse is defined as: Sexual exploitation: any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, a difference of power or trust for sexual purposes. It includes benefiting from the sexual exploitation of others, whether financially, socially, or politically. Under UN regulations, it includes commercial sex, incitement to commercial sex and an exploitative relationship.  Sexual abuse: actual physical intrusion or threat of a sexual nature, whether by force or under unequal or coercive conditions. It includes sexual assault (attempted rape, kissing/touching, and forcing someone to have oral/groping sex) and rape as well. Under UN regulations, any sexual activity with an individual under the age of 18 is considered a sexual violation regardless of the age of majority or the age of awareness under local laws. A miscalculation of a child's age is not a defense.  Sexual Harassment: A series of unacceptable and unwanted behavior and practices of a sexual nature and may include, but is not limited to, sexual insinuations or requests, requests for sexual favors, or sexual, verbal, or physical behavior or gestures, which are or may be considered sexual harassment. To be seen as offensive or degrading.  Sexual exploitation and abuse is in breach of the provisions of the United Nations Secretary-General’s Bulletin (which includes Special Measures for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse), and is defined as “a conduct or conduct of a sexual nature when such conduct or conduct amounts to sexual exploitation.  Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse is a term used by the United Nations and NGOs to refer to measures taken to protect individuals from sexual exploitation and abuse by their staff and associated personnel.  The Six Basic Principles for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.  1- Sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian workers constitute serious acts of misconduct and are therefore grounds for termination.  2- It is strictly prohibited to engage in any sexual activity with children (persons under the age of 18 years), the local age of majority.  3- The exchange of money, employment, goods or services for sex, including sexual favors or other forms of degrading or exploitative behavior, is prohibited. This includes the exchange of assistance due to beneficiaries.  4- Any sexual relationship involving improper use of rank or position between those providing humanitarian assistance and protection and the person benefiting from such assistance and protection is prohibited, where such relationships undermine the credibility and integrity of the work of humanitarian assistance.  5- When a humanitarian worker has fears or suspicions related to sexual exploitation and abuse by a colleague, whether in the same organization or not, he must report these concerns through the existing reporting mechanisms of his organization.  6- Humanitarian workers must create and maintain an environment that prevents sexual exploitation and abuse, and that promotes the application of their Code of Conduct. All managers are responsible for supporting and developing systems that maintain such an environment.  **Complaint Submission:**  • You have the right to free humanitarian assistance, and all humanitarian workers are prohibited from asking for any sexual favors in exchange for humanitarian assistance.  If you or any other beneficiary has been subjected to mistreatment by an employee working in the humanitarian field, report this through one of the following communication channels:  - E-mail: [protection@aldameer.org](mailto:protection@aldameer.org)  - Protection Coordinator Number: 0594550445  all information is treated confidentially, and that reporting will not affect your right to humanitarian assistance. |